United Nations A/C.4/61/L.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/61/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session (A/61/100 and Add.1).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the sixty-first session should recess on Tuesday, 12 December 2006, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Thursday, 9 November 2006 (see A/61/250, paras. 10 and 11).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, conference services has allocated 26 meetings to the Committee and has urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

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Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	28 September — a.m. (1 meeting)
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 39)	2 October — p.m. 3 October — p.m. 4 October — p.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 35) Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 36) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 37) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 38)	5 October — p.m. 6 October — p.m. (5 meetings)
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 30) (interactive presentation by the Secretariat on its work followed by a general debate)	11 October — a.m. 12 October — a.m. 13 October — a.m. (3 meetings)
Questions relating to information (item 34) (interactive dialogue with the Secretariat followed by a general debate)	16 October — p.m. 17 October — p.m. 18 October — p.m. (3 meetings)
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 33) (interactive dialogue with the Secretariat in accordance with the issues listed in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations followed by a general debate)	19 October — p.m. 20 October — p.m. 23 October — a.m. 25 October — a.m. (4 meetings)

06-52199

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Effects of atomic radiation (item 29) University for Peace (item 28) Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 110) Programme planning (item 118)	26 October — a.m. 27 October — a.m. 30 October — p.m. (3 meetings)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 31) (question and answer period followed by a general debate)	31 October — p.m. 1 November — p.m. 2 November — p.m. (3 meetings)
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 32)	6 November — a.m. 7 November — a.m. 8 November — a.m. (3 meetings)
Action on all draft resolutions submitted under the last two items above	9 November — a.m. (1 meeting)
Total	**26 meetings**

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39, and individual debates on agenda items 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 110 and 118, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and I suggest that the Committee devote its meetings on 4 and 5 October to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) For the purpose of utilizing fully the meetings facilities, item 28, "University for Peace", item 29 "Effects of atomic radiation", and item 110, "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly" will be considered in a cluster of three meetings together;

(d) Item 118, "Programme planning", is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates

any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 be closed on Monday, 2 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chairman wishes also to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/61/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the General Assembly's decision that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the sixty-first session. Members' attention is also drawn to the Assembly's decision to waive at its sixty-first session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/61/250, paras. 12 and 15).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes.

10. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

11. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/61/INF/1.

Notes

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/61/251.